The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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MANY INJUNCTIONS WORRY LEGAL LIGHTS

New York, Feb. 17.—Judges are warned of the indiscriminate use of the injunction writ by a committee of the American bar association that has formulated a code of conduct and criticism for judges.

The code makes no direct reference to labor injunctions, but strong ground is taken against the practice of judges issuing injunctions on ex parte application.

Judges are told that they should discourage these ex parte proceedings, and that it is unethical to issue injunctions or order receiverships without the knowledge of defendants, except "where the necessity for quick action is clearly shown."

"If this be demonstrated," says the committee, "then the judge should endeavor to counteract the effect of the absence of opposing counsel by a scrupulous cross-examination and investigation as to the facts and the principles of law upon which the application is based, granting relief only when satisfied that the law permits it and the emergency demands it.

"The judge should remember that an injunction is a limitation upon the freedom of action of defendants and should not be granted lightly or inadvisedly.

"One applying for such relief must sustain the burden of showing clearly its necessity and this burden is increased in the absence of the party whose freedom of action is to be restrained, even though only temporarily."

The code includes not only rules for the guidance of the judge while on the bench but numerous suggestions are made as to his private conduct, which it is declared, "should be beyond reproach."

STRIKE CAUSES IGNORED BY RAIL BOARD CHAIRMAN

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 17.—Chairman Ben Hooper of the railroad labor board was cheered at a meeting of the Tennessee manufacturers' association when he denounced striking workers.

The speaker acknowledged that "our industrial system has reached the point where tremendous fortunes are piled by the side of abject poverty," Stanley by his own "progressivism," the chairman continued:

"These things are explained by some as the natural results of economic laws, but laboring men do not accept this reasoning. They believe perversion of laws to be responsible. Nobody in this country is so ignorant as not to know that legislation can be enacted that will give one class advantage over the other."

With these utterances to serve as his alibi for "fairness" to labor, the "radical labor leaders" who magnify grievances—and who possibly insist on calling attention to the tremendous fortunes that are piled up by the side of abject poverty."

The chairman entered into the spirit of Chairman Hooper's speech, and before adjournment passed this declaration:

Condemnation of the progressive group in congress; opposition to efforts to curb the use of the labor injunction: opposition to any change in the Cummins-Esch act except to empower the railroad labor board to enforce its decisions on the workers; enactment of a "reasonable" subsidy bill.

DEFEND 48-HOUR LAW.

Concord, N. H., Feb. 17.—In defending the 48-hour law before a legislative committee, former Governor Bass said such a law will not injure farmers, as is claimed by opponents.

"States that are politically controlled by farmers have taken the lead in limiting the hours of work in industry," he said. "All the states already under a 48-hour law, all but one—Massachusetts —are agricultural states.

"California, Oregon, North Dakota, and Utah, a rural group, have such a law; and Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington have an eight-hour law for women. We find that no state which has enacted a 48-hour law ever repealed it."

The speaker quoted government statistics to show that in Manchester, the chief industrial center of New Hampshire, the death rate among working women is 150 per cent greater than among non-working women.

ON STRIKE TWO YEARS.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 17.—Striking employes of the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic railroad will observe the second anniversary of their strike on March 4.

These strikers include the railroad brotherhoods and the various shop crafts.

To evade a wage decision by the railroad labor board the president of the road resigned, and after the road was thrown into a federal receivership court the president was appointed receiver by the federal judge.

The receiver then announced he was beyond the jurisdiction of the railroad labor board, and that the wage cut was ordered by the federal court. Wages were cut and the workers struck.

The railroad has been given free use of the injunction writ and other powers of sovereignty to break the strike, but the workers have stood together.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Officers of the Amarillo (Texas) central labor union, inform President Coolidge's industrial employment agency that city is advertising through the north central states that Amarillo, Texas, needs 5,000 help in all lines."

"There is nothing so far from the truth as that, as we have a surplus in all lines here," these unionists say, "as through the immigration of antiunionists to reduce wages."

WORKERS ARE WARNED.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The local central trades and labor council does not seem to take seriously "labor" has ruled that striking garment workers can not picket an anti-union shop. The court used the muddled and untruthful phraseology of anti-unionists who have not the courage to openly avow their purpose.

TRADE UNION CONTROL IS INDIVIDUAL CONTROL

The proposal in New York state to license trade unions is of vital interest to every organized worker. Even though the plan be not accepted by that legislature the agitation is intended to be the entering wedge for trade union control and incorporation.

Labor's opposition to the licensing or incorporation of trade unions can be easily understood if the fundamental difference between a trade union and a corporation is kept in mind.

The corporation is an artificial thing created by the state. Certain features of it are controlled by the state, and in return for this control the stockholders are permitted to limit their liability.

Under the company or partnership form of doing business each member of the firm is responsible, without limit, for the acts of the other members of the firm. But when these business men incorporate their liability is limited to the amount of stock they own.

Because of limited liability the corporation method of doing business is favored. A corporation can not be jailed, because it is not real. The usual method of discipline is to fine a corporation, which charges the fine to operating expenses and raises rates, if necessary, to meet the deficit.

A trade union has not the slightest similarity with a corporation.

When a corporation is regulated by the state the liberty of stockholders is not affected—they may not even be aware of the proceedings.

State action toward a trade union is instantly felt by every member of the union. The union is another way to refer to a group of human beings, possessing memory, understanding and will.

If the state regulates or controls wages, hours or working conditions of one of these groups it controls the individual as certain as the black man was controlled before the war between the states.

Outlawry might be less brutal and might be accompanied by a less show of force than prior to '61, but the principle would be the same. Behind today's paternalism would be every force that the state can muster.

To urge the licensing or incorporation of trade unions is to revive the old world ideal of government.

The new world ideal of government is to protect life, liberty and property, to guarantee freedom to citizens and diffuse education.

To have government sit in judgment on individuals, to prescribe their living standards, select their amusements and direct the rearing of their children—all through the control of wages—is a doctrine that belongs to eastern Europe and Asia.

No true American would even suggest government control of the individual, or would class trade unions with corporations.

The men who would revive this kingly theory have the same mental attitude toward the workers as did the slave owner and the feudal baron.

Democracy is impossible where the state dictates the lives and limits the aspirations of citizens.

PIECE WORK SYSTEM CAUSES BIG STRIKE

New York, Feb. 17.—Nearly 20,000 garment workers, affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, are on strike to abolish the piece-work system. This is the sixth strike these workers have struck against debased working conditions.

The employers are organized and their policy is similar to their resistance to any change in the sweat-shop system and other evils these unionists sweep aside. A majority of the picketed strikers are women and girls.

In a statement issued by the unions it is declared that the piece-work system is an evil to the workers and a handicap to fair-minded employers.

"Under the prominent operation of this system there is no fixed or uniform unit of compensation," it is stated.

"Every new model means a new kind of work, and every season brings forth new models literally by the hundreds.

The system of piece work is an incentive to the employes to work with an intensity detrimental to their health, particularly in view of the fact that the industry is highly seasonal, that the periods of labor are irregular, and that the workers in such seasons are tempted to make up for the lean periods of the year by overexertion. Occupational diseases, and particularly tuberculosis, so frequent among the workers in the needle trades, are directly traceable to this peculiar system of piece work."

WOULD PROBE PORTO RICO

Washington, Feb. 17.—Senator Brookhart and Congressman Maloney have introduced a joint resolution to authorize the appointment of commissioners with full power to probe Porto Rican conditions.

The organized workers of that island have been urging this course for several years. Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rico senate, and also A. F. of L. organizer and president of the Porto Rican federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, has been in this city urging consideration of the conditions of workers in the island, who are engaged mainly in agriculture.

Under the Porto Rican organic act, passed by congress, corporations engaged in agriculture are limited to the ownership and control of 500 acres. No attempt is made to observe this law, and more than a dozen corporations control over 300,000 acres of the island's best land.

Laborers in Porto Rico, including women and children, are employed at wages that are inadequate to furnish proper food and clothing. The wages of men in agricultural districts range from $5 to 60 cents a day. Men working here and those of the women and children are about one-half that amount. The testimony of government representatives show that these undernourished workers are further exploited by exorbitant prices for food and other supplies; by cheating as regards weights and measures, and by deduction from their wages for goods that are not purchased.

The profits of the sugar and tobacco companies are enormous. Most of these are owned by people on the island by absentee owners, who have succeeded in evading taxes, making it impossible to maintain proper schools in the island.

NO NEED FOR ALIENS.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 17.—There are more than 356,000 unemployed according to an unemployment census conducted by the American legion, said Garland M. Powell, an officer of the legion, in an address in this city.

"The result of this census refute many arguments in favor of lowering the bars against alien immigration," he said. "There is an organized movement afoot among certain employing interests to repeal the present 3 per cent act for limiting immigration on the plea of a scarcity of labor."

MANY AUTO DEATHS.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—The automobile is almost as deadly as the shells and machine guns in statistics compiled by the national safety council. It is shown that deaths and injuries from automobile and motorcycle accidents and mobile fatalities in the United States in 1922. New York led the list with 785 dead, not including the month of December. Chicago was second with 574 and Los Angeles third with 350. Springfield, Ohio, and Holyoke, Mass. had the best records each having only two fatalities.

PRINTERS GAIN.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 17.—Arbitration methods have resulted in gains for the commercial shop members of Typographical union No. 30, it is stated. Six months rates will be $40 a week; second four months, $41; third four months, $42. The agreement is based on the 44-hour week.

OPPOSE STATE LIABILITY.

New York, Feb. 17.—Business men in this city oppose legislation that would give the state a monopoly of workmen's compensation insurance.

PREPARE SAFETY CODE.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 17.—Employers and employed joined with the state industrial commission in preparing a new safety code for the building industry.

BOODLE IS PROTECTED BY STATE HIGH COURT

Minneapolis, Feb. 17.—The state supreme court has blocked the Minneapolis city council's attempt to uncover a fund of $227,000 operated by the local street railway company.

The company's books show that this money was taken from the company's treasury about the time the Brooks-Coleman act was passed by the state legislature. This act placed control of the Minneapolis street car lines in the state public utilities, and was favored by the company because the Minneapolis common council refused its request to raise fares.

With the disappearance of the $227,000, the city council called on the company to permit the city attorney to examine its books. This was refused and the district court sustained the company. The council then carried the case to the state supreme court, which upholds the company.

The attorneys for the company assured the court that the $227,000 was small not claim that the $227,000 was any part of its overhead. The court presented this astounding defense for the acceptance of the company's plea:

"With this stipulation (that the money would not be charged to overhead) in the record, the city has accomplished its principal purpose. The expenditures it demands to investigate are out of the case. For all practical purposes, the moneys expended are to be treated as still in the treasury of the public utility corporation can corrupt a legislature and does not have to give an accounting of its funds so used so long as it does not charge its slush fund to overhead expenses.

One of the attorneys for the company was Pierce Butler, before his appointment to the United States supreme court.

WOULD ABOLISH COSSACKS.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Another attempt to abolish the cossack system has been launched in the state legislature by Senator Hill. It is shown that the major part of the $450,000 appropriation in 1921 for the cossacks was expended in two coal counties and that 32 counties had no occasion to call out troops.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, the cossacks made 4,504 arrests. Virtually all the men and women taken into custody were from the coal fields of Logan and one other county.

Senator Hill is collecting a mass of affidavits by both men and women who have been brutally treated by the cossacks. One of these affidavits, signed by Roy Rector, is typical:

"On the second day of June I was at home, and the state police and deputy gunmen came about 2 o'clock. I was talking to Lick Creek tent colony and arrested me; they also arrested Bill Jones and he struck me with the rifle on me and told me to stick up my hands, that he had orders from his boss to kill me, and I have got no man but to shoot them down wherever he found one; so they arrested 52 of us and put us into the city hall without a bed to sleep in, from Sunday morning until Wednesday.

Rector further swears that the cossacks then marched him to the jail house and "cut the tents, destroyed the grub, poured kerosene oil in a churn of milk, broke up dishes and rocking chairs, so my wife and three-year-old baby had to go without anything to eat from breakfast until some time that night, and then she had to go to Whitman with the United Mine Workers' office to get money to buy something to eat. We lived on fall at that time; and on the 22d day of the month they brought me back to Whitman and released me with the charges against me."

MINERS QUIT "RED" CROWD

Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Feb. 17.—The convention of district No. 26, United Mine Workers of America, have notified President Lewis of Indianapolis that the district has withdrawn from the red international of labor unions, with headquarters at Moscow. Delegates to the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America acted upon district No. 26 to take this action.

TO CREATE PRIVATE ARMY.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 17.—A bill introduced in the state legislature would make it mandatory for the governor, on request of railroads, to appoint "extraordinary special agents of these companies to carry arms to any point in Tennessee."

ROAD TRIPLES INCOME.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—A preliminary report by the Chicago, Northwestern railroad shows profits of $17,636,305 for 1922, compared with $6,661,152 the previous year.

LEATHER WORKERS' PAY.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Workers in the saddlery and harness industry were paid an average weekly wage of $21.42 last year, according to the United States census.

SHOP MEN DIDN'T DEFY RAILROAD LABOR BOARD

Boston, Feb. 17.—The charge that organized shop men defied the railway labor board was denied by Bert M. Jewell, president of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, in a speech in historic Faneuil hall. The Jewell speech was the outstanding event June 30, the day before the strike.

"The members of the executive board of the shop men's organization had been in Chicago more than a week and this was known to the labor board, as was the fact that the members of the executive board left Chicago on June 28," said President Jewell.

"The board could have easily been intercepted and returned in time for the conference, said the speaker, who declared that he and his associates felt certain that no benefit to the public or to the shop men would result from a conference attended by conference, called under those conditions.

Because of the railroads' refusal to accept a proposal submitted by the men to the chairman of the labor board to end the strike, the speaker declared that since July 1 there has been a lockout, and not a strike.

"The railroads have refused to allow the shop men to return on any conditions acceptable to any man who has any manhood," he said.

The Baltimore agreement, which more than 100 railroads have accepted, provides for the return of all men on strike to the classes they held prior to the strike, and to all juniors with seniority unimpaired, said President Jewell.

LAWMAKERS IGNORE POOR RAIL SERVICE

Denver, Feb. 17.—The Colorado state senate defeated a resolution that the governor be requested "to put all the powers of the state" and take such action as he deems necessary to secure railroad transportation service.

The resolution was approved by the house, but a railroad lobby was successful in the senate. The debate developed that the farmer, stockman, fruit grower, miner and merchant are all suffering because of faulty railroad service.

In several counties it has been impossible to move many thousand head of cattle, sheep and hogs, and in minor sections mineral is awaiting transportation. The workers find themselves the cause of these conditions and appealed to the legislature.

Senator Hatch recalled the present Rio Grande railroad scandal by his statement that the Denver & Rio Grande Western is not interested in supplying cars, but that Wall street manipulators are engaged in wrecking this property.

PAY RICH DIVIDENDS AND PAUPER WAGES

Bayonne, N. J., Feb. 17.—The Vacuum oil company, a Standard oil unit, has been forced by its workers to pay a wage scale equal to other local companies. The workers first demanded only a 12 per cent increase, but they accepted the compromise.

The company is one of the most prosperous among Standard oil affiliates. Recently it announced large stock dividends.

FARM WAGE IS LOW.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Wages of day farm laborers for the country as a whole are averaging $1.98 a day without board and $2.57 with board, according to the department of agriculture.

These figures may interest swivel-chair admirers of the workers who editorialize on the need for "workers going to the farms"—where they can raise their own vegetables after they have worked 11 hours in the steel mills.

The department says the average monthly wage without board is $59.46 and $27.31 with board. By the day without board the lowest average is $1.40 in the south Atlantic states.

OPPOSE HANDCUFF LAW.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Trade unionists in this state are opposing a "can't-strike" law, introduced in the West Virginia legislature by Governor Morrow. The governor favors this handcuff legislation, as does every anti-union employer and other believers in private armies to administer law in this state.

BIG TYPEWRITER PROFITS

New York, Feb. 17.—The Underwood typewriter company reports a profit of $4,000,000 after paying $3,000,000 in stock, as compared with $10.14 per share in the previous year.

These profits are after funds have been set aside for depreciation, taxes, and preferred dividends.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Organized painters have re-established their 1921 scale by raising wages to $1 an hour.

PRINCELY SALARIES PAID OIL OFFICIALS

Washington, Feb. 17.—Officials of Standard oil companies are not worried by the "living wage" question, according to figures filed with the senate committee that is investigating the oil industry.

The companies first refused to give the figures requested, but finally did so after the senate had threatened to issue subpoenas.

In all cases the figures were submitted by mail after the company officials completed their testimony. This policy made it impossible for the committee to cross-examine the officials on the salaries, or to discover other sources of income.

The Standard oil company of New Jersey leads with high salaries, having six officials who receive $100,000 a year or more and five others who get between $50,000 and $100,000. A. E. Bedford, chairman of the board, and Walter Teagle, president, each receive $150,000 a year, while four vice presidents are each paid $100,000 a year.

P. C. Folger, president of the Standard oil company of New York, is paid $100,000 a year. Three vice presidents are paid $60,000, $47,500, and $32,500, respectively. One director in this company is paid $40,000 a year.

Other oil companies pay salaries ranging around $60,000 and $30,000 a year.

IMMIGRATION CHANGES ARE WATCHED BY LABOR

Washington, Feb. 17.—Organized labor is giving careful consideration to proposed changes in the immigration law that are recommended by the house committee on immigration.

One of these recommendations is that the 3 per cent provision for admitting immigrants shall be changed to 2 per cent, and that the 1910 census, on which the admittance percentage is based, shall be changed to the 1920 census. Other recommendations call for the admission of more relatives than is now permitted.

At a largely attended meeting of trade union representatives in A. F. of L. headquarters, President Gompers presiding, several amendments were agreed to, and an effort will be made to have them incorporated in the house committee's recommendations.

Strikers Ask Protection; Would Return to Homes

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 17.—Striking railroad employes have appealed to Governor McRae for protection on their return to work. Thousands of workers were evicted from Missouri & North Arkansas property by "citizens' committees" that demand loyalty to the railroad.

The governor said he "would write to the sheriffs" and other officials and "request" that the strikers be protected. The strikers declared that "citizens" acting for the railroad are guilty of several towns along the railroad and that it is unsafe for strikers to be found in these communities.

A feature of these outrages is the moderation with which the governor of the state views defiance of law by the railroads. There is no longer any serious attempt to connect the strikers with the burning of bridges, and the mob is known to be associated with the railroad's attempt to smash the shop men's strike.

The best proof of this latest viewpoint is the silence of "law and order" newspapers and public officials on the entire situation.

WANT CLOTH LABELED.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 17.—The Oregon legislature has adopted a peculiar proposal in congress which would compel the labeling of "shoddy" woven into all of woolen fabrics and woolen garments to place thereon a tag plainly stating the percentage of "shoddy" wool and how much, and what other materials were used in cloth.

Advocates of this legislation declare that "shoddy" is worked over and over again into cloth with just enough virgin wool to hold it together. It is claimed that shoddy should be labeled so it can be distinguished from all-wool.

INFANT MORTALITY CUT.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 17.—Canadaigua, with an infant mortality rate of 28 per 1,000, led the state last year in protection of the lives of babies, according to state officials. The infant death rate throughout the state has been reduced because of improvement in scientific care of mothers and babies, it is stated.

WANT TO COMPROMISE.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 17.—Organized labor's agitation for higher awards under the state workmen's compensation act alarms employers, who now offer small increases in the rates.

RAIL UNION OFFICIAL DIES.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 17.—Charles E. Whitney, general secretary and treasurer of the Order of Railway Conductors, is dead after a three weeks' illness of heart disease.

HIGH COURT REVERSED BY COMMERCE BOARD

Washington, Feb. 17.—The interstate commerce commission has developed the delusion that there is no appeal from the United States supreme court—at least, for railroads.

The supreme court ordered that the Southern Pacific railroad and the Central Pacific railroad be separated, and now the interstate commerce commission rules that the consolidation which the court favors consolidation and the combination is legal. The supreme court has set aside the decision of the anti-trust law.

The Southern Pacific has for years controlled the Central Pacific. When the supreme court ordered the dissolution, the railroad took the case to the interstate commerce commission.

In setting aside the court's decision, the commission held that it's action is subject to review by the court.

The commission's act is most unusual, but it is improbable that the supreme court will cite the members of the commission or officers of the Southern Pacific for contempt.

The railroad company has not only ignored the court's order but has actively engaged in creating a public opinion against it.

Unionists Are Enjoined; Slaves Plead For Chains

Logan, W. Va., Feb. 17.—The pathetic spectacle of slaves pleading for their chains was witnessed in the Logan county circuit court when eight union miners asked Judge Robert Bland to enjoin members of the United Mine Workers "from doing anything that would result in unionizing these mines."

Instead of kicking the sycophants out of his court, and notifying them to swear out warrants if law was violated, Judge Bland granted the request, and now union miners are enjoined from even asking non-unionists, in the most manner possible, if they desire affiliating with the United Mine Workers of America.

Several anti-union coal companies were granted injunctions against any interference with their "yellow dog" contracts, which provide that miners in the employ of these companies must not join a trade union while so employed.

The injunction also debars mass meetings of miners, as these meetings "will tend to intimidate said miners while exercising their lawful rights while working as non-union miners."

Except a few agitators, everybody is now happy in this county. Cossacks and gunmen failed to drive the unionists have signed contracts not to join a trade union and an injunction judge who will enforce them, and attempts to shatter the delusion that peace reigns in Logan.

HIGH LUMBER PROFITS CAN'T BE CONCEALED

Washington, Feb. 17.—Bookkeeping ingenuity has failed to conceal huge profits in the southern pine lumber industry, according to a report by the federal trade commission.

It is stated that 143 representative companies claimed an average profit of 9 per cent on their investment in 1917 and 8½ per cent profit in 1918. "Revision of the returns," by the commission, "has increased the average earnings to 12 per cent and 11 per cent.

The commission stated that even after this revision the production costs were inflated in many instances, including the cost of insurance, and box production and other enterprises which should have been omitted.

A wide range in the earning rates was reported for both years mounting from a net of 2 per cent to a profit of 52 per cent in 1917 and from a loss of 13 per cent to a profit of 52 per cent in 1918.

With the termination of government control of prices in the industry at the end of 1918, the trade lost the advantage of the higher prices of southern pine lumber "advanced rapidly to unprecedented levels during the latter part of 1919 and early 1920."

WHY SHOP MEN STRUCK.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 17.—In a speech in this city Frank Hedley, of the A. F. of L. railway shop employes, said the strike was caused by three letter Continuation of work by railroads which permitted the railroads to evade the railroad labor board; differences over working conditions and wage reductions. The question of strike was submitted to the shop men, who favored strike by an overwhelming vote.

The attitude of President Jewell, lasted only from July 1 to July 7. Since then the railroads have enforced a lockout. With the Baltimore agreement shop men have been in a position to settle the strike on a local level system.

The railroads, said the trade unionist, must stop orders of 25 New York bankers representing 200 directorships in 91 per cent of the mileage of the United States railroads.

WOOLWORTH'S BIG INCOME.

New York, Feb. 17.—Woolworth & company, owners of a chain of 5 and 10 cent stores, broke all earning records last year with a clear profit of $17,624,-369. This profit is after all charges, taxes, and dividends have been met.

The earnings were $2.70 per dollar on sales was 19.95 cents. The highest previous record, 19.61 cents per dollar, was attained in 1919.

PREDICTS PRICE ADVANCE.

Boston, Feb. 17.—The price of men's suits, medium grade, will be advanced $5, declared Julius C. Morse, clothing merchant, in a speech in this city. He said present high prices of cloth will hold for the next two years.

TO BUILD LOWER HOUSES

New York, Feb. 17.—To reduce the height of cheap apartments one foot is the latest proposal in the interest of building economy. The law now provides for a minimum ceiling height of nine feet.

HIGH-CLASS VIOLATORS MENACE GOVERNMENT

New York, Feb. 17.—Violators of law in high places were classed among the most dangerous radicals in the country by Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart, professor of history and constitutional government in Harvard university, in a speech in this city.

The speaker used the word "radical" in the sense of those who "want a new deal." He defined "conservatives" as those who say, "Let's leave well enough alone."

Dr. Hart pointed out that the federal constitution contains within itself the machinery for its amendment, and that the right to ure an amendment of the constitution is the constitutional right of every citizen.

For every radical labor group, said the speaker, there is an antagonistic group of employers. The latter, he said, set up governments of their own in industrial towns.

"In western Pennsylvania," he continued, "towns are frequently owned by mining and manufacturing companies, who don't permit anyone to go into the towns on election day. These are the types of companies that employ armed guards."

Dr. Hart criticised the Kansas industrial court which attempts to take from workers the right to strike. This law, he declared, would set up a system of peonage among the industrial classes.

In referring to the radicalism of the courts, the speaker said courts are acquiring the habit of being annulled by the legislative or executive branches of government, and that it is in only recent years that the courts are declaring laws unconstitutional.

"We have a right to protect our government," declared Dr. Hart, said, "but we live under a government of law. Hence we must find means under the law and the constitution. We can't take the law into our own hands. We must change the law to meet conditions or the government must fall into the hands of anyone strong enough to take it.

"If we are going to have a republican form of government we must have a government of law."

OPPOSE SHIP SUBSIDY; PLAN IS "PERNICIOUS"

Washington, Feb. 17.—The ship subsidy bill is "pernicious legislation" and is against the best interests of the people, declared the conference committee of trade union legislative representatives in a meeting presided over by President Gompers.

Every influence of the privileged few, it was declared, is being brought to drive this legislation through the senate, and "the chamber of commerce of the United States, the national foreign commerce and other representatives of special privilege have added their voices to those of the private ship owners, it was declared that will bind the United States to objectionable contracts that can not be changed for 15 years." The kind of subsidy that is stated, will place a financial burden on the United States from which it can not be relieved until all contracts expire.

The conference urged members of the senate to resist the pressure of the people by voting against this proposal.

Opposition was also recorded to reopening the immigration question. It was pointed out that not only is there no need for such legislation, but action at this time but that every effort to enact new legislation will violate the spirit of the present statute.

STANDARD SETS PRICES.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The senate oil probe committee has discovered that standard oil officials are paid as high as $125,000 a year and that these salaries have been approved by other independents accept.

Thomas Shelby Black of Chicago, president of the Western petroleum company, told the committee that he was with standard oil for 21 years. The witness cited instances where he called on John D. Rockefeller and fixed the price policy.

One time when the witness joined the Western petroleum company he was often told by Standard officials that they knew what he was going to be an increase in the price of gasoline on a certain day and to purchase before that price became effective.

MORE MINE HORRORS.

Dawson, N. M., Feb. 17.—More than 100 coal miners died in an explosion at mine No. 2, owned by the Phelps-Dodge corporation, in the worst second mine disaster at this place within 10 years. October 22, 1913, an explosion in mine No. 1, also owned by the Phelps-Dodge corporation, caused 261 miners to lose their lives.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 17.—Thirty-four men, 26 of them Chinese, lost their lives as the result of an explosion in the Canadian collieries mines at Cumberland, on Vancouver island, a few days ago mine officials certified that this mine was free from fire damp.

OPPOSE LOWER FARES.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Railroad executives oppose a lowering of railroad rates, declared the national chamber of commerce commission to reconsider its 20 per cent increase and eliminate rates to purchasers of interchangeable mileage tickets.

The commission's ruling only affects travelers who use such mileage, but the executives' action indicates that they will yield nothing without a fight.

PROFITS IN WOOLLENS.

New York, Feb. 17.—The Hamilton woollen company announces a stock dividend of 10 per cent. Last year the company declared a dividend of 40 per cent as compared with $230,000 the previous year.

EIGHT HOURS AT CAPITOL.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 17.—Working hours for state capitol employes have been set at eight hours, governor Pinchot's cabinet. From 9 to 4 were determined as week-day hours, with 9 to 12 as Saturday hours.

MINERS' LOW WAGE.

Baltimore Feb. 17.—In 16 years the average weekly gross earnings of western Maryland miners has been $19.72 for a work year of 208 days, according to Francis J. Drum, president of district No. 16, United Mine Workers of America.